

IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 22, the market specification console further comprising a plurality of rules wherein at least one rule is user-modifiable.

10. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 9, wherein rules comprise the at least one market protocols.

11. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 9, wherein the market specification console includes a graphic user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

12. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphic user interface.

13. (Previously Presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the user defines arbitrary market protocols via the graphical user interface.

14. (Canceled)

15. – 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A universal auction specification system comprising:

a market specification console configured to receive at least one market protocol from a user, the at least one market protocol including a trading primitive that the user configures to dictate the behavior of the universal auction system; and

a programmable auction server coupled to the market specification console via a network connection, the programmable auction server to receive the at least one market protocol defined by the market specification console, the programmable auction server to implement at least one of the trading primitives to deploy and manage the universal auction system.

23. (Canceled)